declared as Protected Areas and the rest of the area will be declared open. However, certain areas even in the 'open area' which are considered sensitive will remain in the restricted category.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Incident at Kupwara in Kashmir

304. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 21 persons lost their lives including three policemen in a serious incident at Kupwara in Kashmir recently; and

(b) whether the incident has added force to the talking point of the Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto both in the world economic forum at Davos and the Human Rights Commission in Geneva?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) As per available information, on 27.01.1994, an Army convoy passing through Kupwara town was attacked by militants. In the ensuing exchange of fire, 21 persons including three State Police Personnel, were killed and 15 others injured. The State Government has announced a Magisterial Inquiry into the incident besides the payment of ex-gratia relief to the victims. The Inquiry is in progress.

(b) Such incidents have been used by Pakistan in their propaganda campaign against India. Pakistan Foreign Office issued a Statement on the Kupwara incident on 30.01.1994, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan mentioned it in her statement in the 50th Session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on 01.02.1994.

Blasts in various towns of Jammu and Kashmir

305. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several blasts have rocked various towns in Jammu and Kashmir of late.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the loss of life; and

(c) what positive steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to wipe out the incidents of blasts and to nab the culprits involved in such blasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) As per available information, a total of 21 blasts have occured in Jammu and Kashmir during this year so far. In these blasts, four civilians and four militants were killed; while 27 civilians and two security forces personnel were injured. Besides, two shops, two bridges and some water supply lines were also damaged.

(c) Sustained pressure is being maintained on the militants within the State and vigil has been further intensified and stepped up on the LOC and the border to prevent infiltration/ exfiltration of terrorists.

News-item regarding Medical Camps in J & K

306. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Indian Express of 12th January, 1994, under the caption "The Army's bloodless coup in Doda", the medical camps organised by the Army's northern command Kishtwar were successful in bringing peace to hundreds of militancy-torn villages of the area besides benefits to the inhabitants by way of medical treatment and propagation of public health schemes;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment about the success of these camp; and

(c) what further steps are being taken to organise more such camps in the militancy hit areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Medical camps were organised by the Army in Jammu & Kashmir as a part of ongoing "Civic Action" Programme, to win over the hearts of the civil population and wean them away from the militants. These camps have met with great success as people in large number attended these camps. Besides medical facilities, Army also distributed various items of food stuffs among the people. These medical camps have assisted in our efforts in bringing peace to militancy torn areas. More such camps are likely to be organised in future.

Vacant posts of D.G's & ADG's

307. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Director Generals and Additional Director Generals are lying vacant in CRPF, BSF, NSG, ITBP and RPF;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and since when these posts are lying vacant;

(c) what are the reasons of their being kept vacant so far; and

(d) whether in view of the grave law and order situation in the country and tension on international borders of the country Government proposed to take prompt action to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The posts of Directors General, NSG, ITBP and RPF are vacant since 1.8.93, 1.2.94 and 1.4.93 respectively. Two posts of Additional Directors General in CRPF are vacant since 20.10.93 and 1.1.94 respectively. One post of Additional Director General in BSF is vacant since 5.1.1994.

(c) and (d) The Government is seized of the matter and action is at hand to fill up these posts?

Person responsible for Bombay blast

308. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons so far identified as responsible for last year's Bombay blasts;

(b) the number of such persons absconding and located so far;

(c) the steps being taken to apprehend them and also to extradite them, if any; and

(d) the progress made in enquiries by various state and central agencies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) 192.

(b) 44 persons have been declared absconders. So far none of them has been apprehended.

(c) Out of 44 persons absconding, 24 are suspected to be abroad. Notices for arrest and detention of 23 accused persons have since been got issued through Interpol. Required information for issue of Notices against the one remaining absconder has also been furnished to Interpol. Indian Missions abroad have also been alerted in this regard.

(d) On the basis of the investigations conducted by the Bombay Police a charge sheet was filed in the Court on 4.11.93.